



Gobble Wobble
Photos, p.15



Friendsgiving,
p.12

Protest Sounds Alarm as Federal Park Police Accused of Aiding ICE

by Nick Hall NH



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Protesters spread out along the sidewalk on Greenbelt Road

On Saturday, November 29, dozens of Greenbelt residents gathered across the street from the U.S. Park Police Greenbelt Station for an “ICE MELT” protest. Several organizations worked together with one main goal – raising awareness of the station’s involvement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) along the Baltimore-Washington

Parkway. The U.S. Park Police is a federal agency, not to be confused with the Greenbelt Police Department, which is part of the city government. According to Autumn (a pseudonym), an organizer with the Greenbelt Resistance Network, Park Police have been allowing ICE agents to ride along with officers, racially targeting and pulling over locals

for minor infractions to search for immigrants, then allowing the ICE agents to send drivers and passengers to detention centers.

On Saturday, an officer at the U.S. Park Police Greenbelt Station during the protest refused to give his name and said he had “no comment” about the protest.

See ICE PROTEST, page 9

A Brief and Ridiculous History Of a World-Famous Utility Pole

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

A Greenbelt utility pole and its claim to worldwide fame has had residents scratching their heads and at times dancing with delight, posting and sighting stickers, noting the landmark on Google Maps, leaving reviews, cautioning against its worship and a myriad of things in between since March 2024. In this year’s Labor Day Parade, the Greenbelt Honk! Situation band entered with a utility pole float, firmly enshrining the pole in Greenbelt’s weird lore.

“Greenbelt Honk! Situation is all about celebrating the creative and weird fun of Greenbelt. The World-Famous Utility Pole and the Original World-Famous Utility Pole are definitely the kind of thing we want to play and dance around!” said Dan Gillotte of Honk! Situation. On a personal note, Gillotte said he practices “Pole-y-theism” and celebrates both the Original World-Famous Greenbelt Utility Pole on Hillside and Northway and the World-Famous Greenbelt Utility Pole across from the Library. The Greenbelt Honk! Situation’s pole represents both poles, incorporating elements from each, he noted.

The News Review has received requests for investigative journalism to uncover the origins, masterminds behind, and meaning of, the World-Famous Pole. The paper approached and inter-



PHOTO BY MELISSA EHRENREICH

In July 2024 a petition to bring back Greenbelt’s career firefighters is posted on the World-Famous Utility Pole.

viewed a person we suspected of being involved in its fame. That individual declined to be named for this article and refused to confirm their role in the pole’s origins or fame. They did offer the comment that the pole is greater than any individual and whatever the idea for the pole might have been, it has taken on “a life of its own.” In literature, there’s a theory called Death of the Author (after the 1967 essay by Roland Barthes), which argues

the meaning of a text rests with the reader, no matter the authorial intention. The meaning of Greenbelt’s World-Famous Utility Pole seems, in this vein, to rest with its fans rather than any creator that might be identified. And fans it has, in fact, an entire fan club.

We hope the following timeline, based largely on documentation by a source close to the pole, who wishes to remain anonymous, offers readers insight into the evolving and strange phenomenon of Greenbelt’s World-Famous Utility Pole, or at least some levity.

March 2024

One morning, residents wake to find that wayfinding signs pointing to the Greenbelt Utility Pole have been put up all over Old Greenbelt.

See UTILITY POLE, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, December 8 7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, December 10
No Meeting: Council Retreat

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for more information.

Worksession Focused Beyond Quarterly Report to Rec. Dept.

by Oliver Gayken

The Greenbelt City Council held a worksession on October 22 dedicated to the city manager’s quarterly update for the reporting period that began on July 1. This worksession was unusual, because after a brief synopsis of his report, the city manager gave over the remainder of the evening to a “deep dive” into the Recreation Department’s many contributions to the city. A majority of the Recreation Department’s leadership staff was on hand to summarize

their programs and services.

Quarterly Update

City Manager Josué Salmerón began the worksession by highlighting city accomplishments and providing updates on current projects. The long list included: a successful search for a new city treasurer, the distribution and management of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants in advance of the final deadline of

See QUARTERLY, page 7



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The newly improved soccer field at Schrom Hills Park had a grand opening in October. Greenbelt Recreation Director Greg Varda and Assistant Director of Recreation Facilities & Operations Andrew Phelan outlined the improvements at the October 22 worksession.

New City Council Conducts Its First Worksession, Legislative Planning

by Matthew Arbach

On November 12, the new City Council held its first worksession, focused mainly on administrative and legislative matters.

Legislative Priorities

On December 2, council planned to attend the third annual meeting of District 22 municipalities with the state senator and delegates. This is an opportunity to share legislative priorities and bond bill requests. Priorities like housing affordability, economic development, environmental sustainability and immigration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)-related matters are expected to be shared by all. After a lengthy discussion, some of the main bond bill request possibilities deemed most likely to be funded were: the Buddy Attick Park trail and stage, lights at Schrom Hills Park and work on the second elevator at the Community Center. The final

vote on the bond bill requests was held at the November 17 meeting.

Street Lights

A related issue was the conversion of the city’s street lights to LED. All present expressed an eagerness to find ways to move this forward. City Manager Josué Salmerón said that council will have to ultimately decide what

See WORKSESSION, page 6



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Council is eager to pursue the conversion of the city’s street lights to LED. Currently the city pays to power its streetlights and is attempting to recoup \$83,000 Pepco has overcharged.

Carriers Bear Greetings

With a December issue, the Greenbelt News Review distributes an envelope that requests gifts for carriers. Envelopes are addressed to the carrier who delivers your newspaper. The return address is the News Review at Suite 100, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD, 20770. See box on page 4 for more information.



Letters to the Editor

SAYT: More Questions

The Save as You Throw (SAYT) November 20 article was informative but not complete. Residents paying \$400 annually as an alternative to the cost structure outlined in SAYT is new information. Missing information includes the cost and structure of this pilot: What's the contract cost for Waste Zero to manage the pilot and take care of getting the bags? What's the profit-sharing breakdown per bag between the city and Waste Zero? I want transparency from the city.

Other questions: What due diligence did the city conduct before selecting Waste Zero? What other options were explored before deciding on the bag pilot? For example, the property taxes we pay to Prince George's County include waste collection. What's the cost savings to Greenbelt if the county provides the trash

collection? Or what's the cost savings if we outsource the trash collection to a company like Waste Management?

While this pilot is happening in 2026, the city should not think the subject is closed. A rigorous cost analysis and comparison of other alternatives pertaining to trash services should be done with the results presented to the residents before the end of the year. We need to decide if paying \$400 annually or keeping with the bag program is more cost effective than turning over the task to the county or outsourcing it.

Lastly, no funds generated from this pilot should be diverted to other programs within the city, like the food scrap program. The city paid \$26,205 to Compost Crew to continue the food scrap program which has 410 participants. It was suggested that some of the trash pilot pro-

ceeds (a profit?) could pay for the food scrap program. No. The city should pay for programs that benefit the majority of the residents and stop catering to the few.

Becky Duncan



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7,
senior/student/military \$9

Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
DECEMBER 5th - 11th

Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS)
(2025) (144 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 3:45 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC)
Wed. 5:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 7:45 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM
Tues. 8:00 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM

Rental Family (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (103 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:30 PM
Sun. 5:30 PM
Mon. 7:00 PM (OC)
Wed. 8:00 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:15 PM
Tues. 5:30 PM

Wicked: For Good (PG)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (137 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Mon. 1:00 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM
Mon. 5:30 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM

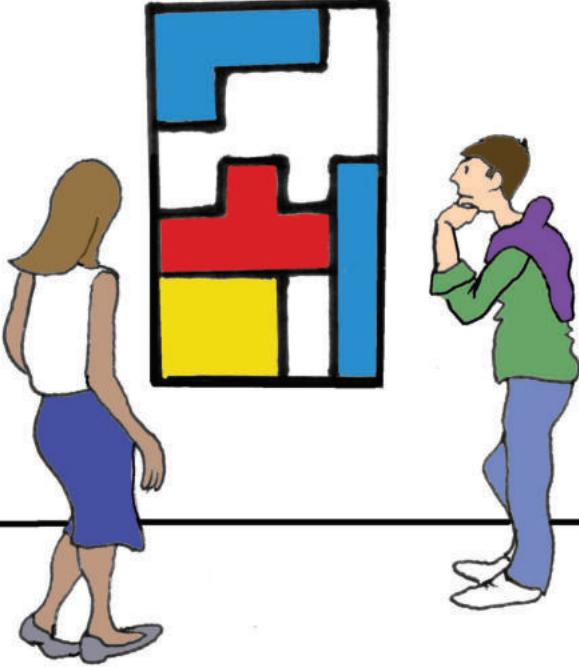
How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
(NR) (1966) (26 mins)

Free screening following the
Greenbelt Community Tree
Lighting Ceremony

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:00 PM

Happiness Happening

Dec 13-14 Greenbelt Arts Center



"WHY DO I SUDDENLY HAVE THE URGE TO PLAY TETRIS?"



LOOKING FOR News Review CARRIERS

Each week, Greenbelt News Review carriers fan out across the city to deliver this paper. We're currently looking for carriers to cover Greenbelt East, specifically Windsor Green. We can add potential carriers to a waiting list for all parts of the city.

Send an email to circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com for more information.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library is currently closed for building repairs and is expected to reopen on Monday, December 8. Customers are advised to check pgcmls.info/alerts for updated information about the closure before planning any visit. In-person programs on the lower level are scheduled to resume when the Library reopens, including Ready 2 Read Storytimes for various preschool ages, the movie Home Alone (PG) on Tuesday, December 9, and Play and Grow for newborns to age 3 on Wednesday, December 10.

The Library also offers the virtual event Federal Student Loan Reform 2025-2028: Your Guide to Repayment, Forgiveness & Borrowing on Wednesday, December 10.

The Library Teen Action group (TAG) program remains on hiatus until further notice.

PORCH Initiative: More Important Than Ever

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in December as scheduled below. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Sunday, December 7: by 5 p.m. at 18 Court Ridge

Sunday, December 14: by 11 a.m. on at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway

Sunday, December 14: by 4 p.m. on for Boxwood Village (Note: regular pickup change)

Sunday, December 14: by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive

Saturday, December 20: by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, December 21: by 4 p.m. on for Eastway

Sunday, December 21: by 4 p.m. at 33 Court Ridge Road

Sunday, December 21: after 6 p.m. for 11-S Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Court Ridge Road

Sunday, December 21: after 6 p.m. for 8 and 10 Court Southway

Sunday, December 28: by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on December 28 at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to your porch. (Note: regular pickup change.)



Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

The following is the schedule for the rest of the year:

December 10 - Bingo

December 17 - Holiday party, members only, everyone must bring hot or cold food

December 24 - No meeting (Christmas Eve)

December 31 - No meeting (New Years Eve)

The membership committee will begin collecting 2026 dues on January 7 after the business meeting. Pay dues with a check made out to Greenbelt Golden Age Club. If paying with cash, have the exact amount.

Holiday Concert Hallelujah Singalong

Sing along to the Hallelujah chorus with the Central Maryland Chorale at A Seasonal Celebration on Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Burtonsville. This combination sacred and secular program features music by Leonard Bernstein, John Rutter, Irving Berlin, Randall Thompson and others. The Hallelujah chorus is the finale.

This year's concert is at the Church of the Resurrection, 3315 Greencastle Road in Burtonsville. Doors open at 7 p.m. A craft fair will be open during a brief intermission.

The chorale includes several members from Greenbelt. Tickets are available at the door, with a discount for students and seniors, and admission is free for those under 12. See the display ad in this issue of the News Review for prices.

Like to sing? For information on how to join for the spring, email CentralMdChorale@gmail.com.

MAD's White Christmas Performances in Laurel

Four performances remain of Irving Berlin's White Christmas by Goddard's Music & Drama Club at Emmanuel Methodist Church on Scaggsville Road in Laurel, on Thursday, December 4 through Sunday, December 7.

Directed by Eliot Malumuth, produced by Aly Bayens and with music directed by Susan Breon, Irving Berlin's White Christmas is a holiday romance based on the popular 1954 movie. The show features the songs The Best Things Happen When You're Dancing, Count Your Blessings, I Love a Piano and, of course, White Christmas.

The show is double-cast, so check the schedule on the website to see which shows your favorite actors are in.

Visit madtheater.org for more information.

Poetry in the Garden

The public is invited to the monthly poetry reading on Sunday, December 7 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Schrom Hills Park on Hanover Parkway. Attendees can read their favorite poem or just enjoy listening to inspiring words. Suggested themes for this session can be Christmas, Chanukah or the New Year.

Band with a Mission: Hear Relics Next Week

The Greenbelt Relics, a rock and soul band that plays music from the 60s and 70s, will appear at the New Deal Café on Wednesday, December 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, December 13 as part of the Greenbelt Community Church Christmas concert. Both appearances will benefit the Help by Phone food bank for local food distribution.

Founded by Keith Johnson, the band came together with musicians from Greenbelt Community Church. Featuring Doug Tull of The Razz on drums, Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen of 2016 Rick Ransom on keyboards, Tom Gill on lead guitar, Mark Granfors-Hunt on bass, Liisa Granfors-Hunt on flute and vocals and Johnson doing lead vocals.

Ekphrastic Fantastic Show Art Reception

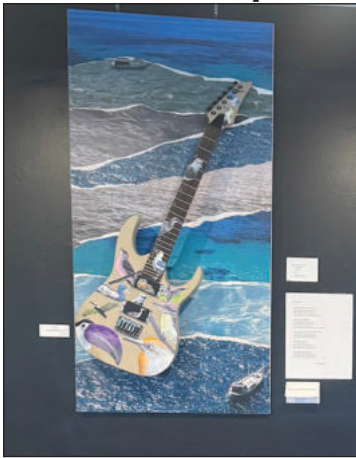


PHOTO BY MEG HANEY

Art by Jose Valcarcel

Ekphrasis, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is "a literary description of or commentary on a visual work of art." The Ekphrastic Fantastic Show borrows from this idea. Seven poems and eight pieces of visual art were selected from works submitted for consideration. Each poem was assigned to a visual artist and each piece of visual art was assigned to a poet for creation of a new piece in response. Identities of the poets and artists were kept secret from each other.

Friends of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA) is sponsoring a free art reception on Sunday, December 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the New Deal Café to celebrate the participants in the show. Come meet the poets and artists and hear about how they approached their works. When viewing the show, try to figure out which came first: the poem or the artwork.



Chess Club Meets

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, December 9 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Tree Lighting Friday With Santa

Community members of all ages are invited to welcome Santa to Greenbelt on Friday, December 5 at 7 p.m. at Roosevelt Center. A musical performance by the Greenbelt Concert Band Brass Choir will herald Santa's grand entrance on a fire truck. After the tree lighting, complimentary treats and hot chocolate will be provided by the Recreation Department. Then, enjoy a free showing of How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966) at the Greenbelt Cinema. All ages are welcome. A bit of Greenbelt history: The first tree-lighting ceremony in Greenbelt was held in Roosevelt Center in 1938.

Greenbelt Nutcracker

A holiday favorite returns when Greenbelt Recreation's Greenbelt Dance Studio presents three performances of The New Deal Nut: A Greenbelt Nutcracker at the Community Center on December 13 and 14. This hometown take on the classic ballet, set to Tchaikovsky's beautiful score, pays tribute to Greenbelt landmarks old and new with dances in a variety of styles, including ballet, jazz, contemporary, ballroom and tap. Some tickets are still available for the Sunday, December 14 performance at 11 a.m. Call the Community Center at 301-397-2208 for details.

GIVES Quarterly Meeting and Party

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) will hold its December quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, December 13 at 10 a.m. in the Community Center, Room 201.

Following a brief meeting, they will celebrate the holidays and their 30th anniversary with a potluck party. All members, past and present, are invited and encouraged to come celebrate with us. Bring stories about GIVES and a favorite dish to share.

Krampus Comes A-calling Saturday

Greenbelt Honk! Situation, Greenbelt's community street band, is conjuring up the Alpen Christmas demon Krampus (and his friends) for a fun and weird holiday celebration in Roosevelt Center. Our fourth annual Greenbelt Krampusnacht is a great time to whoop it up with all kinds of crazy winter creatures and costumed folk. Live holiday "scarols" will be performed by the band as well as a dance by the Witches of the Green Shire. Bring new, un-wrapped presents for Toys for Tots so all can have a merry season.

Details: Saturday, December 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free and family friendly. Costumes are encouraged. Photo opportunities will abound.

Rotary Club Hosts City Constituent Services

On Thursday, December 11 at the Community Center, Room 114, the Greenbelt Rotary Club will sponsor a talk by Gizelle Alvarez, the city's first constituent services coordinator. Alvarez took the role in January 2025 to address city residents' service requests and complaints by liaising between residents and city departments, community organizations and county and state agencies.

Come hear what Alvarez has learned since January about resident needs, how she approaches identifying and meeting those needs, and her plans going forward. Refreshments and conversation will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 7 p.m. presentation. The Club meets every Thursday at the Greenway Center IHOP at 8 a.m., except the second Thursday of the month when club members host this evening speaker series.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.



This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt, 1995-2025!

BECOME A MEMBER!*



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight;
Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 12/04	FRI 12/05	SAT 12/06	SUN 12/07	
Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30 -10p Big, bodacious boogie blues jam	Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes 8 - 11pm Chicago, west coast, swing & jump blues peppered with soul	BACK ROOM CLOSED FOR PRIVATE EVENTS, 11am - 6pm The Paulverizers 8 - 11pm Hard-drivin' blues with some of the DMV's finest musicians	ART RECEPTION: "EKPHRASTIC," 1:00 - 3:00pm Patsy's Honk Tonk Torch & Twang w/ The Hall Brothers 6 - 8pm	
MON 12/08	TUES 12/09	WED 12/10	TH 12/11	New Deal Cafe
LIVE BAND KARAOKE w/ Mike Scott & Friends 7 - 9:30pm	NDC Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 6 - 9:30pm Sign-ups at 6p Show us your talents!	BIBLIOPHILES BOOK CLUB, 11a-12p The Greenbelt Relics FUNDRAISER* 7 - 9pm You'll want to groove!	Swampgrass 7 - 9pm Energetic, vibrant & DC-based acoustic group	DON'T FORGET TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS! That's the only way we pay them and we want them back!

*ALL BAND TIPS WILL BE DONATED TO THE "HELP BY PHONE" FOOD BANK, PG COUNTY.
Join or renew your 2026 membership to the NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on "ABOUT," then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."



Carriers Bear Greetings

With a December issue, the Greenbelt News Review distributes an envelope that requests gifts for carriers. Envelopes are addressed to the carrier who delivers your newspaper. The return address is the News Review at Suite 100, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD, 20770.

Write checks to the name shown on the envelope. We advise against putting cash in the envelopes given potential mailbox theft, and against taping envelopes to your door for carrier pickup.

Envelopes can be delivered to the carriers three ways.

1. Hand them to your carrier.
2. Put a stamp on them and send them through the mail. Given potential mailbox theft, we encourage you to mail them inside a post office.
3. Drop the envelope at the News Review office at the address above.

Though carriers receive nominal pay each week, this extra token means a lot. Pay teaches them about earning money and the work ethic, and gifts show the additional rewards that come from taking pride in being prompt, organized and careful. Families with multiple routes find the income helpful. This is a first job for many carriers, and your gifts are positive feedback that helps them become productive adults.

All those distributing the paper have faithfully helped us get the paper out every week. Our circulation manager, Elizabeth Gardner, helps keep the whole process on track. Alan Burt and Jay Johnson are key links who deliver newspapers to carriers and fill boxes and racks.

The holiday season allows all of us to appreciate and encourage our carriers, and show understanding for any minor delivery problems that may have happened during the year. The News Review thanks everybody involved for doing a great job, caring about the community and braving hot, cold and wet conditions to bring residents their papers.

Celebrate Hanukkah At Mishkan Torah

Mishkan Torah invites the community to a family-friendly Hanukkah celebration for kids and adults of all ages and the installation of new Cantor Yael Fischman. Join them starting at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 14 for Hanukkah story-time, a candle-lighting ceremony, music, latkes, doughnuts and more. Register for free, preferably by December 7, on the website MishkanTorah.org. The event is free to attend.



Our Neighbors

Our condolences to Bob Ollinger of Hillside Road on the death of his brother John.

Congratulations to the top finishers in the city's 20th annual Thanksgiving Gobble Wobble.

Greenbelters have reported sighting Greenbelt Utility Pole Fan Club stickers in Washington, D.C.; North Beach in Calvert County, Md., and as far afield as Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Fall at Greenbelt Lake



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

Thanksgiving skeletons point out that it's not Christmas yet.



PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

Cormorant at Greenbelt Lake

“Whatever decreaseeth fear increaseth courage.”
– Bahá’u’lláh



Greenbelt Bahá’í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

**City Council Chambers
Upstairs at Municipal Building**

cathcomgreenbelt.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**A Roman Catholic
Intentional Eucharistic
Community**

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

City Notes

Most city departments are busy preparing for holiday events. Public Information published the Winter Recreation Activity Guide after technical delays. Code Enforcement inspected four commercial suites and 14 rentals.

After three adoptions, Animal Shelter residents are six cats, four kittens and two dogs. The County Council repealed pit bull restrictions, so starting in January adoptions of those and similar dogs will be allowed.

Public Works and contractors replaced Bradford pear trees on Hanover Parkway with preferable trees and replaced a damaged gas line supplying rooftop HVAC units at the Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC).

Horticulture/Parks removed fallen leaves and chipped fallen branches, installed holiday lights and added solar lighting at bus shelters. Streets/Mechanics installed holiday event banners and decorated the Schrom Hills deer sculpture with festive lighting.

Arts offered fused glass ornament workshops and GAFC hosted a Water Exercise Instructor Training Certification class.

Therapeutic Recreation facilitated a Golden Age Club meeting and Holy Cross Senior Fit.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero



Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Living Generously in a World that Holds Back



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road

**Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship**

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org



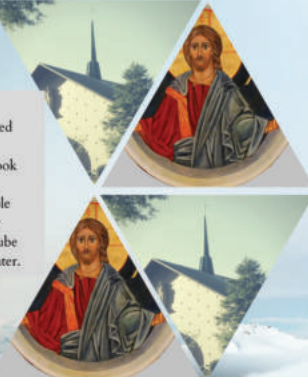
We Are an Open and Affirming Church

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

**Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM**



Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 7, 2025, at 3 p.m.
Why the Caged Bird Sings

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Erin Wiley

In the spirit of our December theme (Uplifting Through Arts) and of Hanukkah, we'll lift up ways in which the arts are an instrument of observation, confrontation, and elevation for the downtrodden.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 8 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order

Roll Call

Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge

Petitions and Requests

Consent Agenda

* Committee Reports

* Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Report #26-1 (Recommendation to Develop a Dog Park at Northway Fields)

* Minutes

* Reappointment to Advisory Boards and Committees

* Council Letter to PGCPs regarding Community Engagement

* Authorizing City Manager to Execute a Contract with CPJ for Survey Services

* Authorizing City Manager to Execute Contract with Innovative Pyrotechnic Concepts, LLC for 2026 Independence Day Fireworks Display

* Authorizing City Manager to Execute Contract for Renewal of Natural Gas Supply for City Facilities

Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- Proclamation for Human Rights Day

- Presentation by State's Attorney Office - Tara Jackson

Administrative Reports

LEGISLATION

- Charter Amendment: Collective Bargaining Rights for Public Works Employees; -1st Reading

- Ordinance: Parking Regulations for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Municipal Building; -1st Reading

- Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Implement Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Fees and Operating Procedures for EV Charging Stations at the Municipal Building; -2nd Reading and Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS

- Approval of Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) Membership Dues

- Discussion regarding Cell Phone Service Issues and Scheduling Work Session in January of 2026

- Discussion of Charter Amendment for Collective Bargaining

- Acceptance of the "Traffic Calming Study: Greenbelt Center City"

- Discussion on Maryland's \$150 EV Charger Tax and Potential City Response

- Council Reports

- Council Activities

- Meetings

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 8-12

Monday, December 8 FOLLOWING MEETING, CLOSED SESSION

Tuesday, December 9 at 7pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, On the Agenda: Final discussion about the Plaque to be placed close to the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree near the Community Center and Library

Wednesday, December 10, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL RETREAT**

Thursday, December 11 at 5:30pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**, Virtual Agenda TBD

Thursday, December 11 at 7pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**, Agenda TBD

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

SUPPORT SHOP WITH A COP

Every year, our agency proudly participates in "Shop With A Cop." We invite you to support our 2025 fundraiser by purchasing one of our decorative holiday ornaments. The proceeds will help us keep this wonderful program funded. This season, we have a brand new design, so please consider becoming a proud sponsor.

The "Shop With A Cop" event provides law enforcement officers and young members of our community a chance to spend quality time together in a positive setting during the holiday season. Both the officers and the children enjoy a day filled with laughter, shopping, eating, and wrapping gifts. It is truly heartwarming to see all the smiling faces, knowing that this event has positively impacted many families in Greenbelt over the years.

Contact Rico Dennis at rdennis@greenbeltmd.gov.

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Fall 2025-2026

Week	Location	Holiday
December 8-12	Boxwood	
December 15-19	Woodland Hills	
December 22-26	Lakeside	Christmas December 25
December 29 - January 2	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	New Years Day January 1

OFFICIAL NOTICE

By Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, December 8, 2025, immediately following the Regular Council Meeting, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individual; and 2) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to discuss personnel matters and 2) to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

The public may attend the Special Council Meeting of the City Council immediately before the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Monday, December 8, 2025.

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

CURRENT GAIL PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs **FREE** of charge. For more information, email Brendy Maddox at bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or (202) 670-6497.

- OPEN COMPUTER LAB FOR ADULTS** 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Weekly sign-up required.
- FREE MONTHLY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION** Greenbelt Residents Only. First time participants must provide proof of residency, state-issued ID, birth certificate (or copy) for each child.

COMMUNITY INPUT FOR INDIAN CREEK PARK PLAN

The City of Greenbelt invites residents to share feedback on the proposed concept plans for Indian Creek Park. The trail will connect Cherrywood Lane and the Greenbelt Station Development north of the park site.

The feedback form will close on December 15, and results will be discussed at a second community meeting in late January.

Review the presentation slides and submit your feedback at www.greenbeltmd.gov/indiancreekpark.



HOLIDAY EVENTS

COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING WITH SANTA

Friday, December 5, 7pm
Roosevelt Center

Greenbelters of all ages are welcome to gather to welcome Santa, who arrives by fire truck to light the community tree. Immediately following the tree lighting, the Greenbelt Cinema will host a free viewing of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966).

DECO THE HALLS - GREENBELT MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Friday, December 5, 7:30-9pm
Greenbelt Museum

Visit the Museum House at 10-B Crescent after the City's tree lighting to see Deco the Halls, an exhibit of art deco and vintage holiday decorations. Take a quick tour of the fully furnished original Greenbelt home, which glows at night. Then peruse the pop-up gift shop inside 10-A Crescent, freshly stocked with new holiday merchandise. House and gift shop open 7:30-9pm.

SANTA'S VISIT

Saturday, December 6, 1-3pm
Greenbelt Youth Center

Santa has fit time into his busy holiday schedule! All children will receive a FREE picture with Santa.

5TH ANNUAL WINTER WONDERLAND

Saturday, December 6, 5-8 pm
Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

Celebrate this milestone with Crew 746! Take a lighted woodland walk and gather around the campfires while you await a visit from Santa. Enjoy hot cocoa, caroling, face painting, story time, and a model train village. Stay for music and dramatic performances by local musicians and teen actors.

UPCOMING FOOD GIVEAWAYS

Thursday, December 18 at 1 PM

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Limited to 100 Greenbelt households with one box being given per address. Call Brendy Garcia at (202) 670-6497 or email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.us to register.

Thursday, December 22 at 10 AM

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Registration is required. Call Brendy Garcia at (202) 670-6497 to receive a produce card before distribution day.

Participants must provide proof of Greenbelt residency. Contact Kathrine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov to learn more.



planned metrorail track work advisory for our community



GREEN LINE TRACK WORK IN DECEMBER

Metro would like to inform riders of [planned track work](#) on the Metrorail system that may affect service in our area for the month of December.

From December 6-7, the Greenbelt and College Park Metro Stations will be closed and free shuttle buses will replace trains between Hyattsville Crossing and Greenbelt.

From December 16-30, no stations will be closed, but the Green Line will single-track through three stations: U Street, Columbia Heights, and Georgia Av-Petworth. This work is part of ongoing efforts to maintain safety and service across the system.

SANTA PAWS IS COMING TO TOWN!

Saturday, December 13th, 12pm-2pm
Greenbelt Police Department Multipurpose Room, 550 Crescent Rd

Please join Greenbelt Animal Services for our annual Santa Paws event. Bring your furry best friends to get a digital photo with Santa. All photos are \$10 per family, and all proceeds go towards the Greenbelt Animal Shelter. (CASH ONLY)

Police K9's are Free of Charge



* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for **ARTFANS**, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx.

Winter Registration Open for Greenbelt Residents

Sign-up for classes, workshops, meet-ups, and special events for all ages. Registration for non-residents begins 12/8 at 10am. See brochure and more information at www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide. Winter session begins January 5.

Sparkle Mart: Greenbelt's Juried Art and Craft Fair December 6 (10 am - 5 pm), December 7 (10 am - 4 pm) Greenbelt Community Center. Shop for original fine crafts and artwork, direct from about 80 local makers! Enjoy live music both days, 1 - 3 pm. More information at greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Sign up to volunteer at <https://sugeni.us/e5FG>.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- Friends & Family Workshop: Felted Holiday Orbs** 12/12, 5:30-7pm Greenbelt Community Center Registration required; see page 38 of the fall activity guide for details - bit.ly/49lmlDb.
- The New Deal Nut: A Greenbelt Nutcracker** Tickets (\$5) on sale now! Call the Greenbelt Community Center business office at (301) 397-2208 to purchase.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

ACTIVE SCAM ALERT



A fake event called "Jingle and Mingle Market Extravaganza" is being promoted for December 6-7 at 25 Crescent Road (Greenbelt Municipal Building). This event is not affiliated with the City of Greenbelt and is a SCAM. Please stay alert—do not send money or payments through digital apps.

Please beware of scammers; the City of Greenbelt will not solicit payment through digital apps.

OPEN COMPUTER LAB FOR ALL GREENBELT ADULTS 1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Need computer access? Visit our free lab at the Greenbelt Community Center. Every Wednesday & 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Weekly sign-up required as spots are limited.

Register: bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov | (202) 670-6497.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

Council News

City Council Meet & Greet



City Council Meet and Greet on December 1. Quarterly Meet and Greet events are planned during 2026, across Greenbelt.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

WORKSESSION continued from page 1

level of ownership and maintenance of street lights it wants to adopt. He said that a primary hurdle is the lack of a cost estimate from Pepco, adding that Pepco appears to show little interest in selling the lights to the city. Grant funding is possible from the Maryland Energy Administration Street Light and Outdoor Lights Efficiency Program, but is limited due to related interests from other municipalities.

Currently, the city pays to power the street lights. Salmerón said that Pepco has overcharged the city \$83,000 and that he has refrained from paying the city's bill until this is rectified. LED lights would present a significant cost savings.

Other Matters

Salmerón and Assistant City Manager Timothy George said that renovations to the Greenbelt Cinema's windows and toilets still await approval from the Maryland Historical Trust. Work on the auditorium will have to wait until the theater's less busy season as it will place the site offline until completed.

Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Danielle McKinney demonstrated interest in improving lighting and accessibility at the city's bus stops. Jordan was keen on installing digital route update signage, with Salmerón saying that a bus shelter was necessary for that.

Legislative Consultation

George submitted a survey to council to determine its views on how to obtain legislative consultation from private firms. Currently, the city is working with Carrington & Associates LLC. Consensus was for having a multi-provider approach, with a split between state and county legislation. This would aid council in tracking the thousands of bills in both arenas that affect the city's residents.

Salmerón said that a request for proposals was sent to private firms, and that after a vetting process, the city is now in negotiations with a second firm. Forty thousand dollars have been allocated for this, but this move will likely exceed that, with the expectation of legal and advocacy fees being a financial likelihood. Salmerón said that the existing vendor has been amenable to meeting the city's needs and honoring its pay structure. Jordan said that the two vendors would need to work

together, as there will be overlaps.

Resident Bill Orleans expressed skepticism over the need for private consultation as both the Prince George's County Municipal Association and the National League of Cities (NLC) offer resources in this area.

Standing Rules

A reevaluation of council's standing rules was planned but it was decided to table this matter until council's retreat. In a subsequent interview, Councilmember Kristen Weaver informed the News Review that the retreats will occur on December 10 and 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. There was a desire to have Maryland Municipal League employee Tom Reynolds present to act as an outside facilitator.

Jordan urged council to apply for membership to one of the NLC's many committees and councils. He advised council to choose based on one's passion.

Resident J Davis urged at least one councilmember to apply for the environmental sustainability group, as this is a central pillar of the city's philosophy. Councilmember Frankie Santos Fritz offered to look into applying.

It was decided that a pre-budget meeting should be scheduled in December so that Salmerón can get feedback from council on its priorities and interests. He would be able to share revenue projections and information from senior staff as well.

The meeting ended with a transition into an executive session.

Breakfast with Santa

Greenbelt friends, neighbors and children, come to the Greenbelt American Legion, 6900 Greenbelt Road on Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m. to noon for breakfast with Santa. On the menu for breakfast are: pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, donuts and a beverage. Children will have their picture taken with Santa and participate in an art/craft project. There is a small fee per ticket, and children under 5 are free. Tickets are limited to the first 100 people; tickets can be purchased at the door. Both the fire department and legion auxiliaries look forward to seeing families and their children as they create new and lasting memories at our 2025 Annual Breakfast with Santa.



Newly-elected Council Tackles Fire, Phones and Economics

by Larry Beyna

On November 17, the Greenbelt City Council held its first regular meeting since the November 4 election. In attendance were six re-elected councilmembers and newly elected Frankie Fritz, who took the seat previously held by Rodney Roberts. Major items of business during the meeting included news on fire department staffing and adoption of the Economic Development Strategic Plan. Bond funding also passed. A discussion of a charter amendment allowing Public Works employees to form a union was reported in the November 27 issue.

Fire Department Staffing

City Manager Josué Salmerón reported that the Berwyn Heights Fire Department has a six-person county fire crew operating as of November 18 and that Greenbelt hopes its existing county paramedic crews will shortly be supplemented by a fire crew. In answer to a question by Councilmember Jenni Pompei, Salmerón explained that the Greenbelt station was more difficult to staff, as it took 30 staff to cover its 24-7 operation while Berwyn Heights is covered only for one shift. A class of over 30 will shortly graduate from training, allowing a balanced mix of senior and junior staff to be assigned to Greenbelt.

Upcoming Expenditures

Salmerón warned of a significant increase in energy costs facing the city (possibly 30 percent) and said he was working with brokers to get an accurate assessment ready for next year's budget. He also reported that redirected and additional funding is being provided to support extra food assistance throughout the city.

Economic Development

City Economic Development Manager John Mason briefed council on the proposed Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP). The plan, detailed in a 52-page report, is the result of more than a year's effort by city staff and the consulting firm of Willdan Financial Services. It was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act.

According to Mason, the purpose of the EDSP is to "cultivate a vibrant, regionally connected and resilient business environment where local businesses grow, residents thrive and public services remain strong for future generations." The EDSP process involved engaging business stakeholders, residents and city employees to identify Greenbelt's key assets; reviewing existing conditions in Greenbelt's economy, such as health care (Greenbelt's largest industry), real estate and hotels; assessing the findings; and developing recommendations.

According to the EDSP report, the plan "represents a pivotal step in charting a resilient and inclusive economic future for Greenbelt, one that builds upon the city's rich history, diverse community and strategic location in the Washington metropolitan region. ... Core objectives include enhanc-



Accepting the Proclamation for Native American Indian Heritage Month from Mayor Emmett Jordan is Adam David Greene, Emissary of the Great Tava of the Piscataway Indian Nation to the Indigenous European People in the Western Hemisphere.

ing business support services, attracting new business investment, facilitating the redevelopment of commercial centers and underutilized properties, and continuing to support the recovery and growth of small and independent retail businesses still affected by the impacts of the pandemic."

The EDSP has eight strategic components for Greenbelt: (1) post-Covid resilience among small businesses; (2) connectivity between business leaders and city leaders, including outreach about what the city does and its available resources; (3) support of business entrepreneurship, including outreach and training; (4) a retail revitalization and marketing campaign; (5) redevelopment of opportunity sites; (6) an economic alliance with other area cities; (7) a Priority Partnership Program to accelerate catalytic redevelopment, especially for sites with high visibility and fiscal impact potential; and (8) partnering with the city's Public Information office to increase tourism. Many efforts in these eight areas are already underway and more are planned.

At the end of Mason's presen-

tation and questions, Pompei moved to adopt the plan as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Frankie Fritz noted that Greenbelt had the enviable bonus of a location with excellent connections to Washington, D.C. and Baltimore – but that "the last two miles" were a problem. Getting to Washington, D.C. from the Metro station would take 20 minutes, but the wait to catch a bus within Greenbelt could be longer.

Cellphone Service

Resident Susan Smithers noted that poor cell service in the city can be a matter of life and death. She suggested council list reliable and unreliable cell service providers and meet with them publicly. She also suggested that medical and cellphone experts be included to discuss the health hazards of cellphones and towers. If council is not willing to be proactive, it should advise residents to return to landlines, she said.

Resident Nick Leanos blamed the lack of cellphone towers, not providers. He said a tower near Greenbelt Elementary School would provide 5G service in historic Greenbelt. He stated that landlines do not work in electric power outages, but cellphone service is useful in emergencies. (Note: traditional landlines do work in power outages as their power is drawn from the copper lines that connect them to the phone company, but domestic phones supported by VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) or phone equipment that needs to be plugged in to work do not.) In addition, Leanos stated that adding a new tower would enable access to less expensive phone and internet service than is currently available.

Mayor Emmett Jordan suggested that council should include the issue of poor cellphone service at an upcoming worksession.

Indigenous Peoples

Resident Adam Greene, stating

See COUNCIL, page 7



FULLY PROMOTED

Branded Apparel & Promotional Products

Celebrate Greenbelters Chris and Jill Connor's New Business

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
GRAND OPENING EVENT!

Please join us for ribbon-cutting, networking,
food, give aways and amazing deal on our
featured custom products!





7209 Hanover Parkway, Suite A
Greenbelt MD 20770



Tuesday, December 9th
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Greenbelt.MD@FullyPromoted.com
301-456-5413

Council News

QUARTERLY continued from page 1

December 2026, a voter engagement campaign, and Public Works’ roadway improvements and the pool deck structural remediation project at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC). Interested readers can peruse the complete report at: greenbeltmd.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3212/files/attachment/2382.

Rec Department Shines

Most of the worksession was devoted to an in-depth presentation by the Recreation Department, led by Recreation Director Greg Varda. Varda was joined by Andrew Phelan, assistant director for facilities and operations, and Anne Oudemans, assistant director for programs. Varda and Phelan outlined the improvements made to the soccer field at Schrom Hills Park and the ongoing improvement project at Braden Field. Together, these two projects involved the expenditure of \$2M in ARPA funding. Other significant recent improvements include new picnic pavilions in Buddy Attick Park and shade structures at Greenbelt Station.

Personal Support

Carrie Hannigan, an administrative assistant at the Community Center, spoke about the importance of the Recreation Department’s “personal touch,” giving several examples: having a live human answer phone calls, providing speedy checkout for busy patrons trying to finish a registration during a lunch break or offering a patient helping hand to someone who needs assistance filling out a form.

Caroline Soter, administrative assistant at the Youth Center, advanced this theme by detailing the Recreation Department’s financial assistance programs and mentioning that she and her colleague Cathryn Pracht offer free notary services. LaToya Fisher, a program supervisor who oversees Learn to Earn and two recent graduates spoke briefly about their experiences in the program.

Facilities and Programs

Stephen Parks, GAFC supervisor, accompanied by Kathy Mitchell and Cynthia Brown, mentioned

the recent acquisition of new exercise machines for the fitness wing and gave a brief account of the closure of the indoor pool, which reopened in September. Trevin Green, the Community Center supervisor, reported on the building’s new boilers and the high-visibility paint on exterior steps for the visually impaired. Green expressed his appreciation for the city’s support of Community Center programming and the work of his staff, including Adam Daelmans, the Community Center coordinator, who reviewed the myriad groups that the facility hosts – from Cub and Girl Scouts to music ensembles to Goddard groups that met there during the government shutdown.

Gratitude was a recurring motif, echoed by Frank Jones and Brian Butler, recreation coordinators at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, as they reviewed their programs including field trips, nutrition assistance, movement classes and intergenerational storytime events that connect seniors with kids. The Recreation Department’s multifaceted array of programs and services were described by Arts Supervisor Nicole DeWald and Visual Arts Coordinator Amanda Larsen, who sketched the various programs under their purview, including camps, arts instruction, youth performance, exhibitions and public art. Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator Priya Gardner Lemieux outlined how the department provides senior and inclusion programs, and Greenbelt Museum Director Megan Searing Young reported on ongoing fundraising as the Museum moves toward full utilization of its new space.

Recreation Coordinator Patrick Mullen brought the presentation to a close with an enthusiastic recounting of the work he and his fellow park rangers do to make Greenbelt’s parks accessible to the public. At the end of the worksession, Mayor Emmett Jordan noted that the Recreation Department’s programs are “shining stars” for the city.

COUNCIL continued from page 6

that he represented the Piscataway Indian Nation, requested council to read in full the report of the recommendations of the Piscataway Indian Nation recently submitted by him, or provide a reason why they would not read it. (Note: The Reparations Town Hall meeting of November 15 also referenced this material; see page 12).

Other Council Actions

Jordan issued proclamations recognizing November 2025 as both Municipal Government Month and National American Indian Heritage Month in Greenbelt. Council approvals included: \$9,994 for grants to Greenbelt’s local schools for emergency food assistance programs; the appointment of Nicole Brown to the Advisory Planning Board; two 2026 bond bill projects, one for \$300,000 to improve the walking trail and stage at Buddy Attick Park and the other for \$400,000 to install lights at Schrom Hills

Park’s athletic field; and nine residents and Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Fritz to serve on the city’s Charter Review Task Force. Council also authorized Salmerón to execute two contracts for legislative advocacy and tracking state and county legislation and to approve computer replacement and equipment purchases (resident Bill Orleans opined that this was a waste of money).

Cathie Meetre assisted in the preparation of this article.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW

Visually impaired may listen for free

Call Metropolitan Washington Ear

301-681-6636

No special equipment needed

Greenbelt Concert Band Brightens Season with Holiday Lights Concert

by Matt Neufeld

The Greenbelt Concert Band brightened up the holiday season with its festive and rousing Holiday Lights Concert for an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd on Sunday afternoon, November 30, in the Multipurpose Room at the Community Center.

More than 110 people enjoyed a spirited, upbeat, free and fun hour-long concert that was filled with holiday season favorites and classics and an array of well-known pop standards.

The happy crowd, which ranged in age from little kids to senior citizens, loved every minute of the concert. Every song was greeted with spirited applause.

The Greenbelt Concert Band – an all-volunteer, adult traditional concert band with woodwinds, brass and percussion – performed the concert led by director Joan Rackey. Concert Band sax player Max Pinales was the guest conductor for the band’s traditional rendition of Irving Berlin’s classic holiday season favorite White Christmas (1942).

The other songs the band played were: It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas (1951) by Meredith Willson; It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year (1963) by Edward Pola and George Wyle; three classic songs by Stevie Wonder: Sir Duke (1976), You Are the Sunshine of My Life (1972) and Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I’m Yours (1970); music from the film score for the movie The Polar Express (2004), by composer Alan Silvestri; Hallelujah, by Leonard Cohen (1984) performed by the trombone choir; Christmas on Broadway, a medley of songs from classic Broadway musicals, including My Favorite Things from The Sound of Music and A Spoonful of Sugar from Mary Poppins; Bugler’s Holiday (1954) by Leroy Anderson, for which the trumpet section showcased impressive stamina; Music of Disneyland, a medley of classic titles from the world of Disney, including It’s a Small World (After All); Cartoon Carnival, a medley of classic cartoon theme songs, including memorable themes from Hanna-Barbera cartoons, The Flintstones and The Jetsons; and, as the closing song, Sleigh Ride (1948), also by Leroy Anderson.

The Greenbelt Concert Band, a registered nonprofit, was first formed in 1937 – the same year the Greenbelt News Review was founded, not long after the first residents moved into the new town. The band



Guest conductor Max Pinales, concert band saxophone player, rehearses with the band.

is open to all experienced musicians from Greenbelt and surrounding areas. Rehearsals are on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Community Center. The band performs about eight concerts every year for varied

groups and events, including community festivals, Greenbelt Day, the Holiday Lights Festival and retirement communities. For more information, visit greenbeltconcertband.org.



Peter Teuben is standing on the bridge between Poland and Germany. In the background is St. Peter’s Church in Görlitz, Germany. He is pointing at a News Review picture from a few months ago when he was in Fiji.

Rotary Club of Greenbelt

Constituent Services in the City of Greenbelt

A Conversation with Gizelle Alvarez on Thurs, Dec 11 at 7 pm

Starting with refreshments at 6.30 pm

Community Center Room 114

Monthly Speaker Series - 2nd Thursday of the month - greenbeltrotary.org

Happiness

Saturday, December 13 at 8 PM

Sunday, December 14 at 2 PM

Happening

a multimedia experience featuring original instrumental music and a full set of funk-and-roll-hip-hop-soul

scan QR code for tickets or visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org

UTILITY POLE continued from page 1

The pole in question bears a simple paper sign reading World-Famous Greenbelt Utility Pole. (This would later be replaced by a spray-painted sign.) Additionally, stickers for the Greenbelt Utility Pole Fan Club were observed around town.

At some point residents note the pole's presence on Google Maps and begin leaving reviews.

April 2024

Controversy erupts when a landmark is added to Google Maps for the Original World-Famous Greenbelt Utility Pole, an alternative pole on Northway bearing the image of a stick figure holding a peace symbol. Google reviews are also left for that pole. Soon, stickers featuring the stickman and the words One True Pole are found around town. Some Greenbelt neighbors begin pledging their allegiance to one pole or the other.

Additionally, postcards for the World-Famous Utility Pole are discovered around Greenbelt.

May 2024

Booklets titled Greenbelt Utility Pole Activity Book are found around town. Activities include a word search with a coded message, coloring pages and an activity that dismisses the "peaceman pole" as being a false Greenbelt landmark. The purported authors are the Greenbelt Utility Pole Fan Club.

August 2024

Flyers appear around Greenbelt for the Greenbelt Utility Pole Observation Party with instructions to meet at the pole and stare at it for 15 minutes. The event is to be hosted by the Greenbelt Utility Pole Appreciation Society, who take pains to note that they "could not be more different" from the Greenbelt Utility Pole Fan Club. "No weirdos," the flyer says.

On Saturday August 31, 2024, at 1 p.m., amid the 2024 Labor Day Festival, more than 60 people converge on the pole. One person had a custom-made utility pole T-shirt. Another had baked pole-shaped cookies. Various attendees invoke blessings, lead chants and dance around the pole. A bewildered courier arrives on his motorcycle carrying a package "for the people staring at the pole." The package contains several T-shirts commemorating the event, which are shared with attendees. The event is interrupted by a group of protesters calling themselves IDOGUP (International Disciples of the Original

Greenbelt Utility Pole). Their signs feature slogans like "Obey the Peaceman" and "Weirdos Welcome."

Fall-Winter 2024-25

Additional sticker designs are sighted occasionally: "This Pole Fries Fascists" and "What if we kissed the pole for good luck?" There are additional reports of yard signs pointing the way to the utility pole.

April 2025

Several copies of a pamphlet titled "Is Your Child Worshiping a Utility Pole?" are found around Greenbelt. The pamphlet mimics the tone of "satanic panic" religious tracts and warns of the dangers of pole worship, a.k.a. "utilatry."

An alternative postcard design is also spotted: "A perfectly ordinary utility pole. Greenbelt, MD, a normal town."

Greenbelt Utility Pole Fan Club stickers are sighted in D.C. and as far south as Calvert County. During the spring, various decorations begin to be added to the pole.

July 2025

Readers of the Washington City Paper name the World-Famous Greenbelt Utility Pole a finalist for the Best Kid-Friendly Attraction.

Bumper stickers with slogans like "I kissed the World-Famous Greenbelt Utility Pole and I liked it" and "I'm in love with the World-Famous Greenbelt Utility Pole, only God may judge me" are sighted.

August 2025

Flyers are spotted for a Greenbelt Utility Pole Lookalike Gathering to be held October 26. Attendees are encouraged to dress up in utility pole costumes and bring prizes to share with their favorite pole cosplayers.

September 2025

The Greenbelt Honk! Situation goes all out with their Labor Day parade theme: they build a utility pole parade float; several marchers dress as linemen and one participant dresses up as Miss Utility Pole, complete with sash.

October 2025

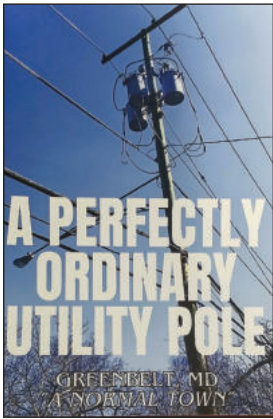
A Greenbelt Utility Pole Lookalike Gathering is held on October 26. The gathering includes limbo dancing and visitors include Maryland State Delegate Ashanti Martinez and U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin, who had been attending another event in Greenbelt that day and were led to the pole by enthusiastic residents.



Greenbelt Honk! Situation marches with a model of the utility pole in the 2025 Labor Day parade



A yard sign spotted in Berwyn Heights



A postcard featuring the pole advertises a perfectly ordinary utility pole.



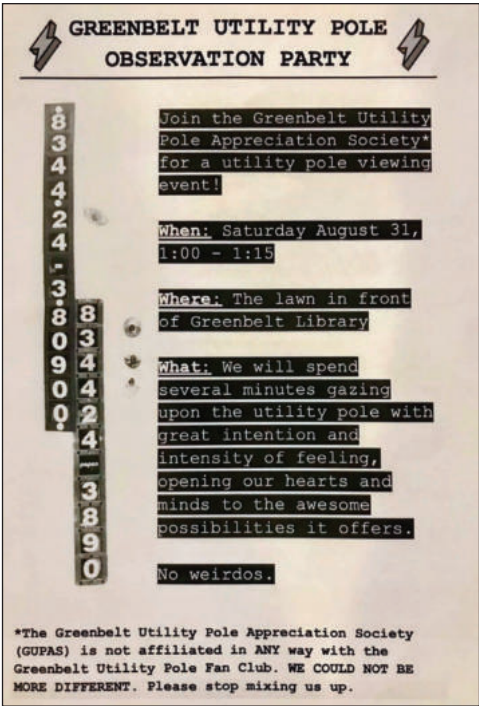
A sticker on a drinking fountain near Buddy Attick Park. They have also been spotted at Greenbelt Metro station and some locations far from Greenbelt.



Katy Irving holds her baby Luseh, who is sporting the design on the Original World-Famous Utility Pole, which is on Northway.



Flyers seen around town: in Generous Joe's window, the Co-op bulletin board, inside the New Deal Café



A flyer advertising the August 2024 Utility Pole Observation Party



From left, State Delegate Ashanti Martinez, Miss Utility Pole, and Congressman Jamie Raskin pose for a photo at the lookalike gathering in October 2025.

Central Maryland Chorale

A Seasonal Celebration

Saturday Dec. 6, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

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ICE PROTEST continued from page 1

He also refused to confirm or deny whether they were assisting ICE by allowing ICE officers to ride along with Park Police officers. He provided a number to call for an official statement, but it goes to voicemail and a message left received no response.

A public statement from the Greenbelt City Council on November 7 acknowledged residents' concerns about ICE activity in the area, and stated that Greenbelt Police will not assist ICE. Greenbelt Police Public Information Officer Rico Dennis confirmed that this is still true. Many concerned Greenbelt residents have called him asking about unmarked Greenbelt Police vehicles, but Dennis said that they are not being used by ICE.

The protest included elements similar to recent protests – inflatable costumes, music, dancing and anti-ICE signs. There were about 45 participants, some of whom came or left as the event went on. Autumn described the importance of the inflatable costumes by pointing out that Trump and the Republicans have designated people sharing anti-fascist ideas as “terrorists.” The harmless costumes are meant to demonstrate how ridiculous that accusation is.

Tony G from the national organization Refuse Fascism brought some recorded music and played rousing protest songs, many with a Latin American beat. In addition, members from the DC Activist Street Band came to play, drum and sing. Lyrics sheets were handed out for the song Bella Ciao, a popular anti-fascist Italian folk song. The vast majority of interactions from drivers were positive – honking, waving and singing in support.

A table sat off to the side with snacks and fliers provided by the Prince George’s County Immigrant Rights Collective (PGIRC), which provides support for fami-



The U.S. Park Police Greenbelt Station is quiet, across the street from the protest. The unidentified federal officer inside refused to comment.

lies affected by ICE. They sold pastries to raise funds for families in need and helped participants put on costumes. PGIRC works with CASA, which provides services to help immigrants find legal help, learn English, develop business skills, find work and defend their rights.

Those who notice ICE activity can call CASA’s tip hotline at 1-888-214-6016. However, in light of reports of kidnappers impersonating federal agents, anything resembling a kidnapping should be reported to 911. All ICE agents are required to obtain a judicial warrant before entering private spaces, such as houses and staff-only sections of business. In public spaces, judicial warrants are not required for ICE to “arrest” an individual.



Some members of the DC Activist Street Band, led by Beth Leamond, sing Bella Ciao, the Italian protest folk song from the 19th century that was later modified to represent antifascist sentiments and said to be dedicated to the Italian Resistance during the liberation of Italy, though popularized after the war.



A patriotic Pikachu protestor proudly presents a U.S. flag as part of their opposition to ICE and fascism.



Cars drive past the protest, honking and waving in support.

- Photos by Nick Hall NH



A protester dressed as the Statue of Liberty has a megaphone and noisemakers ready for use.

Greenbelt Honk! Situation Solstice

Join Greenbelt Honk! Situation, Greenbelt's community street band, on Saturday, December 20 at 6 p.m. as they parade and play music to bring back the daylight. The parade will start at the Greenbelt Firefly Sanctuary and continue down the creek trail past Braden Field and arrive for a set of holiday “Scarols” at Roosevelt Center. Bring lights and warm clothes.

The route is relatively flat and paved with a grade by the fields and just short of a mile. Folks who can’t parade are encouraged to meet up at Roosevelt Center.

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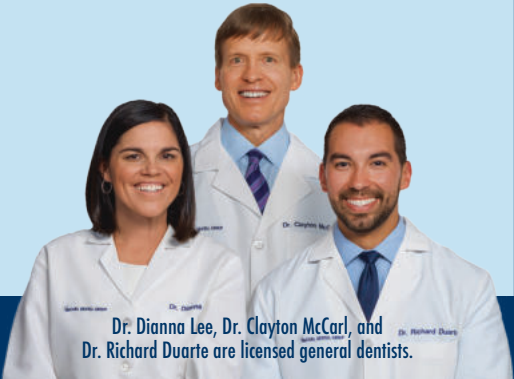
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Dora Kennedy School Fun Run



On Saturday, November 15, Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) held a 5K and 3K fun run around Greenbelt Lake to raise awareness about diabetes. Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmembers Kristen Weaver, Jenni Pompei, Danielle McKinney, Frankie Fritz and Silke Pope attended along with members of DKFI’s PTA, teachers, parents and lots of students. Greenbelt park rangers assisted.



- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

With apologies to songwriter Meredith Willson and singers Perry Como and Bing Crosby, “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like ...” as Public Works staff begin to string holiday lights in Roosevelt Center.



This \$34.50 ad prints 7000 times. That is \$0.0045/per paper.

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Greenbelt Clubs, Nonprofits Represented at Sparkle Mart

by Max Cason



PHOTO BY LORRAINE ALDRIDGE

Greenbelt Pottery Group's downstairs booth

Sparkle Mart, the annual art and craft fair sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program, showcases and supports the work of several Greenbelt-based clubs and nonprofit organizations, as well as dozens of independent local artisans.

Among the featured organizations is the Greenbelt Pottery Group (GPG). GPG's members are local ceramic artists working in diverse styles and techniques, whose practice is centered at the Community Center. The group unites instructors, artists in residence, students at all levels and independent open studio artists in a community of skill sharing, mutual encouragement and public service. Members will offer a wide array of functional and decorative ceramic pieces, both downstairs in the Ground Floor East area and also on the third floor in the hand-building studio.

In Room 114, guests can connect with the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) and learn about historical programs including house tours, exhibits, walking tours, lectures, events and archival collections. To support these initiatives, FOGM will be selling books about Greenbelt history along with mugs, tote bags, retro children's toys and more. Also in Room 114, the Friends of Greenbelt Theater will be selling Greenbelt Cinema merchandise and memberships to support the city-owned theater, the only non-profit cinema in Prince George's County.

The SPACE Free Art for All will have a booth in the Ground Floor East area selling their popular 3D printed and laser-engraved products. Started in 2018 as a pop-up in an empty storefront at Beltway Plaza, The SPACE has been on a mission to bring people together through creativity, making art accessible to everyone.

Finally, in the turning circle outside the Ground Floor East entrance (across from the outdoor pool), the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival committee has organized food trucks. There will be Indian

Concert Band Holds Holiday Concerts

Celebrate the season with music, community and cheer. All ages are welcome - bring family and friends for these joyful free holiday performances.

Tree Lighting Ceremony and Brass Choir: Friday, December 5 at 7 p.m. in Roosevelt Center.

Festival of Lights Concert: Monday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington, D.C., Temple Visitors' Center (Mormon Visitors' Center). Experience the magic of music and lights in this inspiring holiday event.



PHOTO BY LOLA SKOLNIK

Luminary by Lola Skolnik



PHOTO BY LEAH AND MICHAEL COHEN

Vessel by Leah and Michael Cohen

food on both days, as well as hot dogs on Saturday and barbecue on Sunday. All three food trucks have vegan and vegetarian options and a portion of their sales will benefit the Labor Day Festival.

Sparkle Mart will take place on Saturday, December 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Center.

Local Talent Plans to Infuse GAC in Happiness Happening

by Greg Young

Coming to the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) this month is a Happiness Happening and residents will have an opportunity to be a part of this experimental, avant-garde performance art. True to its newly re-stated purpose to provide a full range of the arts, GAC is hosting director and writer Peter Reppert's production that will include a variety of Greenbelt area performers in an ephemeral event. Audience participation is built into Happenings and Reppert intends to use the venue's uniqueness not only to play live music, but also to provide people with the opportunity to feel safe and to interact.

The locals' aspect of the show starts with Reppert, who has been a co-organizer of several Greenbelt jazz festivals and played jazz piano at the New Deal Café for many years. He was part of the two-person pit band for The Patchwork Girl of Oz produced at GAC in July, 2023. Reppert also does single-panel cartoons for the News Review.

Playing the role of MauvIn GraYe, Mike Bennett brings his extensive academic and professional audio-visual experience, having worked for BET and written, produced and recorded countless animated music videos.



PHOTO BY COURTESY PETER REPERT

At a rehearsal for Happiness Happening are, from left, Peter Reppert, Katy Gaughan, Max Pinales and Darrell Dunning.

Saxophonist Max Pinales is a music teacher in Bladensburg but did live in Greenbelt until recently. He just played with the Greenbelt Concert Band for their Christmas concert.

Robert AX Adams, Jr., currently based in Silver Spring, works in a music enrichment program for school-aged kids, RockStarts, and is also an in-demand lead singer/lead guitarist with chops like Jimi Hendrix.

Dajando Smith, a professional musician who grew up in Laurel, sings and plays bass, guitar and keyboards, among other talents. GAC is extremely fortunate to have him share the stage both for his skill and because his calendar

is so full.

Darrell Dunning, drummer, is retired and lives in Laurel. He primarily plays jazz and has performed at the Greenbelt Jazz Festival and New Deal Café many times over the years.

One of the featured audience participation opportunities comes in the form of a drum circle. The facilitator for this portion of the show is Katy Gaughan and she will conduct the audience for at least one song. (Hint: that means there could be more.) There will be a few other outlets for expression and after all, that is what a Happening is, a social interaction that is meant to be a brief escape into another reality, a rebellious joyfulness and an exploration of what happiness means.

Frankie Alike is the GAC featured artist for December, and her paintings will be on display during the Happiness Happening.

This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone to enjoy an evening of unique entertainment, participate (if you want) in the events or just be there. Be part of a genuine community event with group participation to embrace the idea that art and life are intertwined.

There are two performances scheduled for this happening, Saturday, December 13 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 14 at 2 p.m. Tickets are required. For more information visit greenbeltartscenter.org.

Tesla with a Message



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

A Tesla in a city parking lot shows its owner's feelings.



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Reparations Commission Town Hall Highlights Community Feedback

by Carol Griffith



The Reparations Commission Community Town Hall offered breakout sessions for participants to consider possible reparation measures.

The Reparations Commission Town Hall, held in the Community Center on November 15, drew about 60 attendees. The format of the town hall was to both provide information to the community and gather input to guide its future work through breakout groups. American University members of the Humanities Truck project (humanitiestruck.com), a mobile platform supporting community-engaged research and oral history collection, aided in documenting the event.

With assistance from the Howard University School of Law's Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center and the African American Redress Network, commission members Denise Nadasen and Shabnam Mojtahedi guided participants through the history of Greenbelt in relation to African Americans and Native Americans and then showed current demographics. The confederacy of tribes comprising the Piscataway Nation and their history was explained. The presentation focused on the disparities in the African American and Native American populations in educational opportunities, wealth and housing relative to the white population.

The Piscataway Indian Nation has suggested possible reparations including repatriation of sacred land and sites; the establishment of cultural, educational and health centers; financial and technical assistance to spur economic development within the Native American community; and a formal apology. The breakout session reports contained thoughtful feedback for the commission and ideas for possible reparations in the areas of recreation, public safety, transportation, education and Indigenous redress.

Equal access to recreational opportunities and transportation modes in the city was highlighted. In the area of public safety, aid for persons leaving incarceration and for immigrant populations were brought up for consideration. Increased support for families was mentioned as a means for equalizing educational opportunities. Assistance for first-time homebuyers, more affordability measures and protections for long-term renters were brought up for further discussion. The Indigenous redress discussion report raised questions of how to restore justice, without any concrete suggestions offered. Thanking attendees for their participation, the commission members announced that there will be another town hall in the spring, to be scheduled after it considers the information obtained in this event.

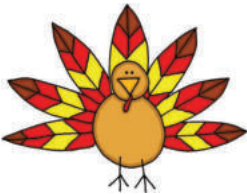
SOUPer Friendsgiving

Community members gathered in a bustling room of the Community Center on Tuesday, December 2 for the free SOUPer Friendsgiving. The event brought together over 70 people to enjoy soup and community. It was sponsored by the SPACE Free Art for

All, the Playtime Project, RUAK, Greenbelt CORES and From Scratch Fundraising. The evening included a DJ, art making, a clothing swap and donations of giftable items. Organizers hope to coordinate more community dinners, perhaps monthly.



Among those serving food at the community supper were, from left, Kelly McLaughlin and her daughter, Shaymar Higgs and Matthew McLaughlin.



- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, December 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy, nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 12 de diciembre a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Ukelele Ladies Holiday Singalong December 19

Greenbelt's Ukelele Ladies will host a holiday singalong at the New Deal Café on Friday, December 19 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Lyric sheets will be available, and everyone is invited. Community sign language will be provided. Come join the fun.



Bibliophiles to Meet

On Wednesday, December 10 at 11 a.m., Charles Holman III will lead a discussion of his genealogy and his discovery that the Bush ancestors owned his ancestors. The discussion will be part of the writing process as Holman is re-editing a book he wrote on the subject. The Bibliophiles meet the second Wednesday of the month at the New Deal Café.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred November 24-30, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltnmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary
Greenbelt Police reported two mental health diversions and seven domestic incidents, one involving a weapon and one resulting in arrest. A sexual assault was reported that took place out of state. Two missing persons later returned unharmed.

Robbery
On November 24 at 8:49 a.m. near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, a young man was robbed by suspects who fled the scene; he had arranged to meet several individuals to sell multiple items.
On November 25 at 7:51 p.m. near 6112 Breezewood Drive, a student was robbed of his coat by other kids who then fled the scene.
On November 29 at 4:23 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone was robbed in the parking lot by suspects who fled the scene.

Assault
On November 26 at 8:44 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man became irate that he had to wait for his order and threw items at the store employee, causing a minor injury.

Armed Person
On November 26 at 12:32 a.m. near 7903 Mandan Road, officers responded to a dispute between a group of men and a group of women involving threats with a firearm; mace was discharged. No parties were injured during the incident, and both groups were provided with multiple options to help prevent similar situations in the future.

Break-in
On November 26 at 4:40 a.m. near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, someone tried to enter a residence but failed.

Disorderly
On two unrelated occasions, a person caused a disturbance and refused to comply: November 27 at 7:34 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road and November 30 at 7:54 p.m. near 4 Parkway.

Threats Complaint
On November 25 at 12:20 p.m. near 8301 Canning Terrace, a young man was harassing and threatening a woman and her friend.

Fraud
On November 24 near 11 Hill-side Road, identity theft led to a woman receiving letters from the Howard Community College collections department about an outstanding balance.

Suspicious Persons Arrested
On November 26 at 11:04 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road,

a person was trespassing and was arrested on an active warrant.
On November 28 at 11:01 p.m. near 5911 Cherrywood Terrace, a man trespassed and a check revealed an active warrant; he was then arrested.

Theft and Shoplifting
On November 27 at 12:11 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, someone shoplifted and fled; all items were recovered.
On November 29 at 3:47 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone shoplifted and fled; he was captured and arrested and all items were recovered; at 7:25 p.m. near 6116 Breezewood Drive, property was stolen; tracking attempts were unsuccessful.
On November 30 at 12:26 p.m. near 167 Westway, a delivered package was stolen; at 1:14 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone shoplifted and fled; the incident was recorded on camera and the shoplifter has been identified.

Vandalism
On November 24 near 6100 Greenbelt Road graffiti was found on a wall.

Vehicle Crimes
Stolen Vehicle Recovered
On November 25 near 7619 Greenbelt Road, a stolen vehicle was located and recovered; the owner was notified.
Theft from Auto
On November 24 near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive, the passenger door was open and items were missing from a 2005 Chrysler Town & Country; near 7474 Morrison Drive, a vehicle window was broken and items were taken.
On November 26 near 39 Ridge Road, a vehicle window was broken and items were taken from a gray 2018 Honda Civic.
On November 28 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a vehicle window was broken and items were taken from a 2026 Dodge Durango.
On November 30 near 5999 Springhill Drive, tags were missing from a 2020 Honda Civic.

Vandalism to Auto
Five vehicles were vandalized: on November 24, a 2007 Honda Pilot near 6015 Springhill Drive and a 2014 Dodge Durango near 8006 Greenbury Drive; on November 25, a 2025 Acura MDX near 6000 Greenbelt Road; on November 30, a Jeep near 6440 Cherrywood Lane and a 2025 Kia K4 near 5805 Cherrywood Terrace.

Coming to the Table: Dinner & Discussion

The local affiliate of Coming to The Table (CTTT) is hosting a dinner and discussion at the Community Center on the second Tuesday of every month. The next gathering is on December 9 from 6:15 until 8 p.m. in Room 202. There will be delicious food from Sunrise Caribbean.
To attend, register via email to Joe Parks at jiyujoe@outlook.com.
The purpose of these gatherings is to provide a supportive environment for facing life's challenges, including those that stem from prejudice, misunderstandings and unresolved racial injustices and in this way to foster and strengthen the Beloved Community.
CTTT began in the spirit of an astounding family reunion. In 2006 in Harrisonburg, Va., two dozen descendants from both sides of the system of enslavement gathered at a table. Through sharing stories and building relationships, both the descendants of an enslaved people and the descendants of enslavers were able to embrace and to embody the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
The local affiliate group of CTTT strives to be as inclusive as possible, to create an environment where anyone can share the struggles that are part of the human condition. Dialogues such as those fostered by CTTT can help overcome both the historic legacy of enslavement and those modern equivalents that function to divide us, from both ourselves and from each other.
The focus topic for December 9 is reconciliation. Participants should consider if they have ever challenged themselves to understand someone whom they had formed a negative impression of – and come to a successful reconciliation?



Mentoring Open House

Join Boys to Men Mentoring Greater Washington and Girls to Women Mentoring Greater Washington for an Open House event on December 20, 2 to 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Youth Center. This event is designed to introduce the group's mission and programs to the community while offering delicious food, a circle for boys and girls, a gift card giveaway and opportunities for discussion.

Proposed Greenbelt East Trail Feasibility Studies Released

by Jeff Lemieux

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has now completed all four feasibility studies of the proposed Greenbelt East Trail, including a new feasibility study for the section wholly within the City of Greenbelt. When fully built, the Greenbelt East Trail would connect the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis (WB&A) trail in Glenn Dale with the Anacostia River Trail system via Greenbelt. The trail would thereby connect key sections of the East Coast Greenway.
Within Greenbelt, the proposed trail would run along the north side of Greenbelt Road (Md. Route 193), from Hanover Parkway past Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) to Mandan Road. The trail would be approximately 10 feet wide, allowing extra space for walking and two-way bike traffic. Highlights would include ADA-compliant bus stops and a proposed median haven at the crosswalk between ERHS and Frankfort Drive. To make additional room for the trail, Greenbelt Road's existing curb would be pushed out a few feet and the main traffic lanes would be narrowed from 12 feet to 11 feet wide. SHA's study also recommends reducing the speed limit from 45 miles per hour to 35 mph in this sector.
Beyond the Greenbelt city limit, the proposed trail would continue on the north shoulder

of Greenbelt Road from Mandan Road past Goddard Space Flight Center to Good Luck Road. In this segment, the trail would be protected from car traffic by a fabricated high visibility curb product called QWICK KURB®. It would also include a new signalized crossing to the westbound bus stops near Chelsea Wood, and would feature raised "floating" bus stops, like those on Rhode Island Avenue in north College Park.
Continuing eastward, the Greenbelt East Trail would run on the north side of Route 193 between Good Luck Road and Lanham-Severn Road. At Lanham-Severn Road, the trail would switch to the south side of Route 193 and continue to the existing WB&A trailhead at the Glenn Dale Splash Park. Importantly, SHA recommends that the high-speed right turn lanes at the intersection of Greenbelt Road and Lanham-Severn Road be squared off. These high-speed right turn ramps have contributed to severe crashes at this intersection.
For more information about the Greenbelt East Trail, and to read all four feasibility studies, visit Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail at greenbeltnasatrail.org.





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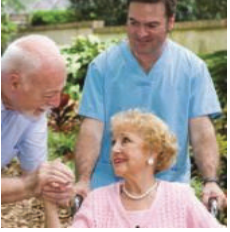
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GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org

DECO THE HALLS

Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30pm-9pm

10B Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD

Come see the Museum's historic house aglow with vintage decorations and check out our new gift shop merchandise!

No tickets required. Event is free!



greenbeltmuseum.org

Saturday & Sunday find us at Sparkle Mart in the Community Center!



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

HELP WANTED

HIRING HAIRSTYLIST – Commission only, Greenbelt area, must have a following. Call Dominick 301-980-9200.

HAIRSTYLIST – Tired of paying rent, your own supplies, taxes, business licenses? Come back to a commission shop! I supply all color, most supplies except for your own personal supplies. Call Dominick at 301-980-9200. Greenbelt area hiring. Have three spaces open.

MERCHANDISE

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR – “All Star” for sale, \$500. Like new. Lightweight and foldable. Retail for \$1,300+. Text 240-422-1584 for details or to test out.

FOR SALE – LG 75-in. OLED EVO AI TV, C4 Series w/remote, was store display (not in box), is wrapped; LG 65-in. QNED AI TV in box; and 2-seater pale green-beige couch, have photos if needed. Call 301-575-7058 and leave voice.

NOTICE

COME JOIN MISHKAN TORAH for a family-friendly Hanukkah celebration for kids and adults of all ages - and the installation of our new Cantor, Yael Fischman! Join us starting at 4pm on December 14 for Hanakkah story time, a candle lighting ceremony, music, latkes, doughnuts, and more. Register for free at MishkanTorah.org, preferably by December 7. The event is free to attend.

SERVICES

HOUSECLEANING – Over 20 years in Greenbelt area. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or one-time cleaning offered. Local references and free estimates available. Debbie, 301-523-9884.

COMPUTERS, WIFI, PRINTERS – Installing, Repairing, Troubleshooting; Documents Printing, Pickup, Dropoff, Training. JBS, 240-601-4163.

CUSTOM FLOORING, LLC – Installing all flooring products. Specializing in refinishing hardwood. Starting \$3.50 per sq. ft. Call Now 301-844-8897, www.customflooringllc.net.

HANDYMAN DAVE – Paint, woodwork, exterior house cleaning, bath, kitchens, floor, more. 443-404-0449.

CARING KIM’S PET CARE – Drop-in visits, boarding and walks. Mornings, Noon, Evenings and Nights, seven days a week. By a lifetime animal lover and caregiver. Offered for dogs, cats, and other small animals. Call Kim at 301-520-6708 for appointment or with any questions.

MISSY’S DECORATING – Serving Greenbelt for over 30 years. Interior painting. Free estimates. MHIC #26409. Insured. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

SOLO ELECTRICAL SERVICES, LLC and HANDYMAN – Service calls, EV chargers, Heavy ups and other electrical needs. Call 240-704-4993.

FRANK’S VIDEO CONVERSION – Convert VHS tapes/8mm movies, slides to DVD. LP records to CD. DAT tapes to CD. Home 240-295-3994, Cell 703-216-7293. franksvideoconversion@gmail.com.

HEATING AND COOLING – We specialize in installing Mitsubishi ductless heat pump systems in Greenbelt Homes. Call Mike at H & C Heating & Cooling, 301-953-2113. Licensed and insured since 1969.

ANGELA’S HOUSE CLEANING AND PAINTING – Cleaning your home like my own, at reasonable prices. Painting inside and out. References available in Greenbelt. Ten years’ professional experience. AngelaLazo1@hotmail.com; 240-645-5140.

YARDS MULCHED – Garden side, \$25; Service side, \$25. No end units, sorry! Call Pat, 301-213-3273.

KELLAHER MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING, LLC – Junk removal, electrical, painting, drywall, leaf removal, landscape design, mulching flower beds, bucket truck services, stump grinding, pruning trees & removal, pole lighting, power washing siding & decks. Mulch & top soil delivery. Dkellaher@hotmail.com, 301-318-5472. Insured. Visa, MasterCard, Discover. www.Kellahermaintenance.com.

GREENBELT MASTER ELECTRICIAN – with over 20 years of experience. New installation and repair work. Call D&M Electrical Services 301-346-5335.

HAULING AND JUNK REMOVAL – Complete clean out: garages, houses, construction debris, etc. Licensed & insured. Free estimates. Mike Smith, 301-346-0840.

PIANO TUNING – Greenbelt local. Comprehensive piano tuning, service, and restoration. 831-247-0043, www.WhitehousePiano.com.

LEW’S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY – Free estimates, fabric samples, local business for over 30 years. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

LAWN MAINTENANCE – GHI resident providing dependable lawn care for Greenbelt and College Park. Includes mowing, yard cleanup, pruning hedges, pressure washing and minor exterior home repair. Reasonable rates. Call or text at 240-391-8615.



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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$4.00 minimum for 15 words. \$1 for each 1-5 additional words. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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20th Annual Gobble Wobble, November 27

On Thursday, November 27, runners and walkers came out to the Youth Center to take part in the city's 20th annual Thanksgiving Gobble Wobble.



Top three finishers in the men's category (with gobbler in foreground): from left, Zion Edwards (18:54), Max Leisnham (19:04) and Paul Leisnham (19:14)



A sea of yellow-clad runners stretch before starting.

- Photos by Nick Hall NH



Top three finishers in the women's category: from left, Kate Mendiola-Smithson (27:39), Cara Leisnham (26:04) and Marie Archer (26:32)



A runner celebrates with a child at the finish line.

Many runners decided to dress up for the run.



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3 Bedroom townhome in Greenbelt. Modern kitchen with top-shelf appliances. Remodeled baths, laminate flooring on main level, carpet upstairs.

Corner Lot with Garage - 3 BR townhome with large yard and patio. Modern kitchen with extra storage cabinets. Energy-efficient HVAC Mini-split system

Large Corner Lot 2-bedroom home that backs to protected woodlands. Stone patio & large shed. Remodeled throughout & mini-split HVAC system.

3-br on large corner lot, garage available. Completely remodeled throughout.

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Giving Thanks and Community Spirit at Franklin Park

As we reflect on the season of gratitude, we are reminded of the strength and spirit of our Greenbelt community. This November, Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station had the pleasure of hosting our first annual Turkey Trot, generously sponsored by Georgetown Pain Management.

The first 100 families to cross the finish line received a certificate for a FREE Thanksgiving dinner for four from Safeway right here in Greenbelt. Along the route, participants enjoyed giveaways, medals, and quick meals to keep the energy high. Even our Franklin Park team joined in on the trot, making it a fun and spirited event for residents and staff alike.



We are especially thankful to **Councilwoman Silke Pope** for connecting us with this wonderful sponsor. Their support and dedication played a key role in bringing this event to life, helping us provide a fun, meaningful, and memorable experience for our residents.



“Fun and fitness! Residents enjoyed a Turkey Trot sponsored by Georgetown Pain Management—thank you to Councilwoman Silke Pope for making this possible and Mayor Emmett Jordan for stopping by!”

In addition, we celebrated our annual Thanksgiving N’ Things event, a tradition we proudly continue in honor of Councilman Ric Gordon, who first began this meaningful community gathering. Councilman Gordon dedicated himself to serving the people, and through this event, we continue “the people’s work” by sharing food, joy, and connection with our neighbors.

Our Thanksgiving N’ Things celebration was truly one of the highlights of the month. This year, more than 500 families went home with thanksgiving groceries including turkeys to help make their holiday a little brighter. The excitement continued with our raffle, where residents had the chance to win gift cards, kitchen appliances, and other special surprises, bringing lots of smiles and happy moments. Thanks to the support of our amazing partners, families were also able to take home books, clothing, and additional household necessities—a meaningful boost for the season.



At Franklin Park, we are grateful for every opportunity to come together, give back, and celebrate the spirit of community that makes Greenbelt so special.